

Nucor Steel – South Carolina

News Release

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Nucor Dubs Spratt “Man of Steel” Company Recognizes Congressman for Stance on Fair Trade

DARLINGTON, S.C. – Nucor Steel-South Carolina presented its “Man of Steel” Award to U.S. Congressman John M. Spratt, Jr. (D-SC) today. The honor recognizes Spratt for his contributions to protecting domestic manufacturing and support for fair trade.

Facility Vice President and General Manager Mike Gurley commended Spratt for his efforts on issues affecting American manufacturers such as international currency manipulation, overseas outsourcing and illegal dumping of foreign products on U.S. markets.

“Nucor would like to recognize Congressman Spratt for his tireless dedication to domestic manufacturers and the working men and women of South Carolina,” said Gurley. “We are grateful for your leadership and are fortunate to have such seasoned and capable representation in Washington.”

Currency manipulation is among Nucor’s primary concerns. This illegal practice, whereby foreign governments such as China peg their currency to the dollar to ensure favorable market conditions for both its imports and exports, violates World Trade Organization obligations. This results in serious consequences for U.S. trade, manufacturing and the global financial system.

Nucor employs more than 1,800 people at its four South Carolina facilities. Manufacturing is a major contributor to the state’s economy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 20 percent of South Carolina’s gross state product (GSP) comes from manufacturing. Only nine states have a larger share of their GSP come from manufacturing. However, the sector has lost significant ground in recent years.

According to figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, over 3 million American manufacturing jobs have been lost over the past four years. More than 65,000 of those jobs belonged to South Carolinians, representing a net loss of approximately 18 percent of all factory jobs in the state. Over that same period, state unemployment more than doubled from 75,100 to 160,685.

In accepting the award, Spratt emphasized the importance of protecting the manufacturing sector. “It is imperative that we act swiftly and decisively to combat forces detrimental to our nation’s manufacturers,” said Spratt. “Manufacturing is the backbone of our economy and we must do all in our power to protect it.”

Nucor is a leader of the American steel industry in production, sales and environmental stewardship. Each year, Nucor’s 31 facilities in 14 states use electric arc furnace technology to recycle more than 18 million tons of steel. This process, developed by Nucor at its Darlington facility, conserves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone for every ton of steel produced. This enables Nucor to annually save enough energy to power the city of Los Angeles for eight years.

For decades, Nucor has implemented innovative techniques that allow it to provide the steel the global economy demands while preserving natural resources. A valued corporate citizen and neighbor, Nucor strives for operational excellence while working in concert with its host communities.

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